

1B

Past perfect simple and past perfect continuous

1 Choose the correct options to complete the text.

Janine loved learning new languages and she ¹**had always dreamed / had always been dreaming** of being an interpreter. After she ²**had finished / had been finishing** her Russian degree at university, she got a job as an interpreter for a local travel company, TravelFast. But after a few years, she began to get a little bored. She ³**had worked / had been working** for TravelFast for five years when she saw an advertisement for a film company. They were looking for Russian interpreters. By five o'clock that afternoon she ⁴**had made / had been making** a video of herself speaking Russian and English and the next morning she sent it to the company. She ⁵**had almost forgotten / had almost been forgetting** about the whole thing when, three months later, she got a call from the director. He ⁶**had looked / had been looking** for an actress to play the part of a spy in his latest movie, and he thought that Janine would be perfect. Janine got the part and within three years she ⁷**had become / had been becoming** one of the most highly paid actresses in Hollywood.

2 Complete the sentences with the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous form of the verbs below.

already start always know love never have not study play talk watch

- When I got to the cinema, the film _____.
- She _____ to her favourite actor for about half an hour before she realised that he was asleep.
- Her neighbours _____ loud music all night and she had a terrible headache in the morning.
- They _____ that one day their band would become famous.
- He was very musical and _____ singing since he was a child.
- Within two weeks, two million people _____ her video on YouTube.
- He _____ an acting class, but he was a natural performer.
- She _____ for very long before she decided to leave university and look for work as a film extra.

3 **SPEAKING** Complete these sentences with your own ideas. Put all the pieces of paper into a bag. Then take turns to pick out one piece of paper and read out the sentence. Can the class guess who wrote them?

By the age of _____ I had _____,
but I had never _____.

I got into trouble when I was _____
because I had _____.

I had been _____ for two hours / the
whole day / several weeks, when _____.

When I arrived at school, I had _____.

I had never _____ before last month.

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Aims: To review and practise the past perfect simple and past perfect continuous tenses.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Materials: 1 handout for each student

Exercise 1

- Give each student a handout and ask them to work individually or in pairs to do the exercise.
- Remind them to think about whether the activity being described was completed before a specific time in the past or took a long time before a specific time in the past. If necessary, revise state verbs with the class first.
- Check answers with the class.

KEY

- 1 had always dreamed
- 2 had finished
- 3 had been working
- 4 had made
- 5 had almost forgotten
- 6 had been looking
- 7 had become

Exercise 2

- Students choose the correct verb and then put it into the past perfect simple or continuous to complete the sentences.
- Check answers with the class.

KEY

- 1 had already started
- 2 had been talking
- 3 had been playing
- 4 had always known
- 5 had loved
- 6 had watched
- 7 had never had
- 8 hadn't been studying

Exercise 3

- Students work individually to complete the sentences with their own ideas. Tell them that they don't have to write factual sentences about their own lives – they can make up interesting facts as long as they are logical and grammatically correct.
- Students then tear off each sentence strip, fold it up and place it in a bag or container at the front of the class. Invite individual students to come up to the bag, pick out a strip of paper and read it out to the class. The class guesses who wrote the sentence. If you have a large class, you could also put students into groups to play this game.